

trade bill, and we're going to try and get it through this year.

REGARDING THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET PROPOSAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for 3 minutes.

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in the midst of an enormous amount of national outrage. I sensed it yesterday when I was in Anderson, Indiana, meeting with my constituents, meeting with small business leaders at a forum. Now much in the media today is focused on the frustration over a large business, specifically AIG, that received tens of billions of dollars in taxpayer money and now has been busy paying bonuses with it to the tune of over \$150 million and has been passing out that money to foreign corporations. That outrage is very real and I agree with it. The American people are tired of bailouts. I voted against the Wall Street bailout last fall, defied a President of my own party, because I simply believe we can't borrow and spend and bail our way back to a growing America. And it seems that much of the public has now come to the conclusion that this notion that we can bail out every failing business in the country is a deeply flawed notion. But I also heard an enormous amount of outrage in my district yesterday about this administration's budget.

The truth is the more the American people look at the President's budget plan, the more they realize that it spends too much, it taxes too much, and it borrows too much, and we have to do better.

I heard yesterday from a constituent by the name of Ted Fiock, who runs and owns Anderson Tool and Engineering Company. He talked about the increasing cost in his business, saying, "The cost burden is just insane right now. We're not doing well. We're struggling. We're in a survival mode right now." You can imagine his frustration and even, I would perceive, outrage when I explained to him that 50 percent of the Americans who will be paying higher taxes under the President's budget are actually small business owners just like him. The President said it would just affect Americans who make more than \$250,000 a year, but according to the most reasonable estimates, more than 50 percent of the Americans that file taxes over that amount are actually small business owners just like Ted filing as individuals. Raising taxes on small businesses, especially during these difficult economic times, is not a prescription for recovery. It's a prescription for economic decline. I also shared with Ted and others the President's plan, the so-called cap-and-trade energy tax. Under the administration's budget, there would be a new energy tax that could cost every household, let alone every business, up to \$3,128 a year for using electricity, driving a car, relying on energy in any way.

The President's budget simply taxes too much. And as I explain the metes and bounds in this budget today, the outrage about AIG's bonuses, the outrage about bailouts has suddenly met its match. I think the more the American people look at this administration's budget, the more they know we can do better, and we must do better. It's time for this Congress to embrace the principles of fiscal restraint and policies that will get America growing again, and Republicans are prepared to bring those ideas forward.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) for 3 minutes.

Mr. FLAKE. Madam Speaker, a little later today, I will bring another privileged resolution to the floor asking for the Ethics Committee to look into the relationship between earmarks and campaign contributions. This will be the fourth one that has been offered. Each time these have been tabled and we haven't instructed the Ethics Committee to look into this. I hope that that changes.

Several years ago, we had a scandal involving earmarks, the Jack Abramoff scandal. Mr. Abramoff now sits in Federal prison. Some staff members and lobbyists and others also were implicated in that scandal. The leadership at that time was slow to recognize the scandal that was there, and I would say today that the leadership is also slow to recognize what is going on here. There are investigations going on around us. The Department of Justice is investigating—we know this from various press reports—the relationship between earmarks and campaign contributions.

Let me just read a few of the whereas clauses from the resolution that will be introduced later today. This one is a little more specific. The first resolution that was introduced had to do just with earmarks and campaign contributions in general. The second one had to do with earmarks related to the PMA Group. The next one just with earmarks related to the PMA Group for FY09 defense spending. This one has to do specifically with the head of PMA, Mr. Magliocchetti, whom we were told had his home raided by the FBI a while ago. Keep in mind that the PMA Group was a lobbying firm, a powerhouse lobbying firm, that over a period of 8 years collected more than \$100 million in fees from its clients, mostly for seeking earmarks from this Congress. Yet when the news came that the FBI was investigating and had raided the office, that firm, that I believe brought in about \$17 million last year alone in revenue, imploded, within a week. By the end of this month it will be completely gone, dissolved. And when you read some of allegations that are going around in the press, you don't wonder why.

CQ Today reported recently that Mr. Magliocchetti and nine of his rel-

atives—two children, daughter-in-law, current wife, his ex-wife, ex-wife's parents, sister and brother-in-law—provided \$1.5 million in political contributions from 2000 to 2008. Now if you look at some of the occupations listed by some of those who were giving \$100,000 over just a couple of years—school teacher, police sergeant, homemaker—does that not raise somebody's antenna that something might be amiss here?

We can't simply let the Justice Department's investigation dictate what we do here in the House. We should move forward ourselves. We shouldn't say that whether or not you can be indicted or convicted should be the standard that we uphold here in the House to uphold the dignity and decorum of this body. Madam Speaker, this body, this Congress, deserves better than that. That's why I hope that we will actually ask this time the Ethics Committee to investigate this matter.

THE BUDGET TAXES TOO MUCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) for 3½ minutes.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank the Speaker.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk a little bit about the budget issues that are before us and about how we are spending too much, we're borrowing too much and we're taxing too much. Recently one of my constituents came up and she had a child in her arms. It was her 6-month-old grandchild. She looked at me and she said, Marsha, you know, it makes me really angry when you all spend money that I haven't made, but when Congress is spending money that this grandbaby has not made, it just absolutely infuriates me. It makes me want to come to Washington and knock on the doors of the Members of Congress and say, What are you doing to this child's future?

Madam Speaker, that is what our constituents are saying when they look at this budget proposal that contains the largest tax increase in history, \$1.4 trillion, over a 10-year period of time. Now some of my constituents have said, where do they get this money? Where does this come from and what are they taxing to come up with \$1.4 trillion? Well, I want to talk a second about the cap-and-tax proposal that the President and the administration has brought forward. I want to use a quote that the President made in an editorial board with the San Francisco Chronicle in January 2008. It said under my plan of a cap-and-trade system, electricity rates would necessarily skyrocket. That will cost money. That will pass the money on to consumers.

That was in January 2008. What we see is, yes, electricity rates will go up. Every time an individual flips on a light switch, every time they punch the brew button on their coffee maker, every time they turn on their computer, it is going to cost them more